ARA #3 PT (434)

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TO: FRANK TUMMINIA, ARA/CAR — For the Attention of

FROM: JOHN D. BLACKEN, Amembassy GEORGETOWN

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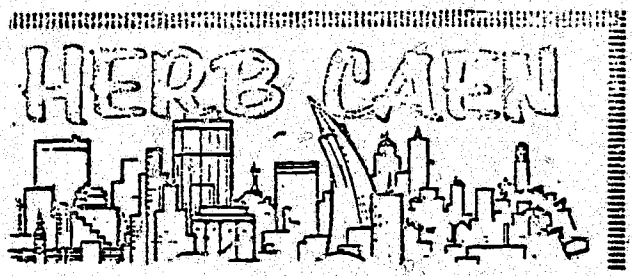
ARA #3 PT

Re: People's Temple

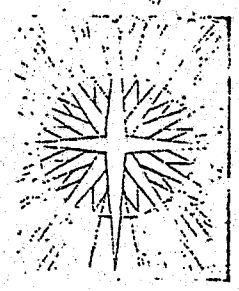
Thurs., Sept. 1, 1977



Pocketful of Notes

PRESSTUFF: Journalist Phil Tracy, who, along with the Chron's Marshall Kilduff, broke the Rev. Jim Jones-Peoples Temple story in New West magazine, was asked by a fellow newsman at the Press Club, "Hot story, but where's the smoking gun?" (hard evidence of wrongoing). "The smoking gun," replied Tracy, "was Jones' resignation as chairman of the S.F. Housing Authority. That alone justified the entire article." Well, yes and no. Jones first tried to resign from the Authority in June, but Mayor Moscone, facing Prop. B and hoping to present a united front, talked him into staying. Jones wrote another letter of resignation on July 13, disclosing that Gov. Brown had offered him a spot on the State Bd. of Corrections (hey, that's news), "an area in which I have great interest." The Tracy-Kilduff piece, which apparently blasted the Rev. Jones all the way to South America, broke in the Aug. 1 issue of New West. So far, lots of smoke, but no gun.

★ ★ ★



PEOPLES TEMPLE

OF THE
DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

Jim Jones,
Pastor

"For I was an hungered
and ye gave me meat;
I was thirsty
and ye gave me drink;
I was a stranger
and ye took me in;
Naked, and ye clothed me;
I was sick, and ye visited me;
I was in prison,
and ye came unto me.

"Then shall the righteous
Answer him, saying,
When saw we thee an hungered
And fed thee?
Or thirsty,
And gave thee drink?
When saw we thee a stranger
And took thee in?
Or naked, and clothed thee
Or when saw we thee sick?
Or in prison,
And came unto thee?

"Verily I say unto you,
Inasmuch as ye have done it
Unto one of the least of these...
...Ye have done it unto me"

Matthew 25:35-40

Dear Friend,

In the past several months, Peoples Temple and Bishop Jim Jones have been the target of a concerted, well-coordinated effort to discredit and destroy the effectiveness and reputation of our organization. The enclosed material will detail what kind of activity is behind the barrage of negative publicity which is full of distortions and outragious lies. The sources of these 'allegations' are racists, law violators and common terrorists who were upset with the church when we did not follow their advocated course of violence. We are certain that these people are being paid for their [illegible] actions in recent months.

We have anticipated for some time that anti-progressive forces would attempt to use whatever means they could to paralyze the dynamic ministry of social and economic equality that Jim Jones has led for some twenty-five years. We also believe that the current campaign to discredit us is just the latest episode in a kind of neo-McCarthyism that has been resurgent of late in various quarters, and which has targeted black elected officials, progressive causes, and experimental communities in the United States. We know that just recenly Rep. Clay of Missouri was exonerated of a series of totally baseless charges leveled at him by a hostile press, as was Lt. Governor Dymally of California (who has been strongly supportive of Bishop Jim Jones and the Peoples Temple). A book recently put together by Mary Warner of the Lt. Governor's office very aptly cites numerous examples of this type of planned harassment that black and minority elected officials in the United States have been subjected to.

On a national level, the same thing is being done to Andrew Young, United States Ambassador to the United Nations. One wonders if he will be able to maintain his position with the type of unwarranted criticism that he is getting, even from members of the black community. This singling out of an official who may be catagorized as having a progressive viewpoint is not uncommon. We witnessed it with the sensationalistic, slanted press that both Martin Luther King and John F. Kennedy received, even years after their deaths.

Three who are a part of a conspiracy against Peoples Temple have reached Guyana. Obviously an attempt to discredit the church and pastor in the eyes of the public, their efforts have had little effect, using the same old trash, lies and smears—a whole library of it. People in the States know and esteem the character and commitment of Bishop

Jones. They are not fooled by the reactionary, anti-Socialist smear campaign. On the contrary, we have the total support of Dr. Carlton Goodlett, and numerous other prominent Socialist leaders throughout the States and the world. We have likewise had no criticism from within any minority community in the United States.

We have had all kinds of church and government officials visit us from both here and the United States. We will be having an open house in the near future. If you are unable to make it to the open house, we will gladly receive you any time. We have a community in which we are more positive than ever. Contrary to malicious allegations, we don't have to have corporal punishment of any kind and never have had. It is fantastic: no anti-social behavior exhibited of any kind and the highest level of medical care you can find any place in the world. The food is tremendous and many new innovative crops are being planted and successfully grown. This type of food production is helping the whole community, and this pleases us very much.

We build most of our houses now out of prefabricated material with the help of our sawmill. Our skilled craftsmen design and build our furniture and cabinets. The school at the Jonestown project is a healthy combination of work/study programs designed to let the youngsters progress at their own rate of speed, with individualized attention readily available. Our program includes an emphasis on Guyanese history and culture. The youth are also trained in a number of technical skills by competent tradesmen. At Jonestown, we make all kinds of other things that will have great utility for Guyana.

Numbers of our families have adopted Guyanese youngsters into their homes. We have integrated into the community and all community activities here, helping with school and recreational facilities. We are bringing Guyanese into this community and have a friendly, cooperative relationship with our neighbors in the area.

We wish to thank the government and people of Guyana. We could never have progressed so far so fast were it not for the total cooperation given every step of the way. We look forward to a relationship of friendship and mutual support between our mission settlers and Guyanese from every walk of life. We can only express our appreciation by trying to make our experiences useful for others engaged in similar efforts to expand and improve cultivation and development of the rich interior of Guyana Guyana, with the goal of benefiting her people.

Paula Adams

Administrative Secretary

MERVYN M. DYMALLY
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

State of California
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
107 SOUTH BROADWAY, SUITE 4007
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

October 27, 1977

Honorable Forbes Burnham
Prime Minister
Georgetown, Guyana
South America

Dear Mr. Burnham:

I want to share with you a matter of great concern to me.

The concept of a politically motivated conspiracy directed against an individual or organization in an attempt to discredit and destroy one's effectiveness in the political and social arena should be utterly foreign to a democratic society. Unfortunately, however, such is not the case.

Having myself been the subject of an ungrounded attack by the media and other agencies, I have first hand experience as to how such campaigns against outspoken persons are launched and carried forward.

Recently, the Lieutenant Governor of Colorado, Lieutenant Governor George Brown, and I joined the National Association of Human Rights Workers to announce the publication of an exhaustive study of organized efforts in the United States to discredit black elected officials. In looking at the extensive body of data compiled after two years of careful research, the picture is unmistakably clear that conspiracies against black and third world people are very real and serve to blunt the effectiveness of any person trying to represent the interest of third world people.

One such person to whom the media and several agencies of government have deliberately and concertedly focussed their resources is one of the most committed activists and finest human beings I know--Reverend Jim Jones. Reverend Jones is the leader of a multi-ethnic, multi-facted, many thousand member organization known as People's Temple. It is one of the most significant forces today in the area of human rights, social change and concrete service work.

It is my belief that by the year 1980 the minority population in California alone will reach the 60% mark. People's Temple is a working solution to the problem that California can anticipate in the not so far distant future. People's Temple has managed to effectively organize minority and caucasians as well, into a viable, progressive force.

A noteworthy feature of the Temple's program is its compassionate emphasis on the needs of the ever growing senior population. This emphasis accurately reflects the shifting age curve of the future and meets that need with kindness not condescension.

Beyond that, Reverend Jones and People's Temple have helped every person who in recent years has been oppressed or jailed fundamentally because of his or her political beliefs. Jim has never been reticent to speak his beliefs in non-violent causes.

It is my confirmed opinion that this outspoken stance coupled with the undeniable size and effectiveness of his organization, has made him a target of the most gruelling and vicious conspiracy yet witnessed.

That which I know to be obvious, lies and frame-up, are presented to the public as thoroughly proven facts. Interestingly enough, the scurrilous nature of these lies were meted out to papers in those cities throughout the world which has the highest concentration of Carribean and, in particular, Guyanese residents. By doing so, the organizers of this conspiracy hoped to have such information filter into Guyana where Reverend Jones has established a remarkable and highly successful model community which I personally have visited. I found that visit to be one of the most rewarding experiences of my life.

One of the key figures in this cruel scenario is a man with a well documented criminal background who has been described by several correctional specialists as a "con man" with an insatiable desire for money and notoriety. Also involved is a high priced public relations firm whose job is to map out campaigns to discredit Reverend Jones and feed information prepackaged to a supposedly free and "objective" press.

It is clear to me that a phenomenal amount of money is being spent by this conspiracy in an attempt to destabilize the agricultural project in Guyana and to apparently, bring about the elimination of Reverend Jones.

Evidence currently being gathered points clearly to right wing forces of the first magnitude. One such force is known to have political affiliation with those remnants of the Nazis who continue

to permeate the fabric of American society to a degree that would shock people unfamiliar with the growing move to the radical right in the United States.

In fact, the last time I visited the San Francisco Headquarters of the People's Temple several weeks ago, a large Nazi rally was taking place in the nearby city of San Jose. It was covered extensively by all media. Klu Klux Klan chapters continue to grow and flourish in all parts of the United States. It is likely that the Panama Treaty will be defeated as a result of the well financed campaign against its passage. These are but a few examples to give you some idea of the current trend.

As a native of Trinidad, my bonds with the Caribbean are close and everlasting. I feel a certain responsibility to apprise you of my thoughts on Jim Jones and my interpretation of what I have seen of the attack on him and his organization in the past months. Jim is a deeply loyal and sensitive person and he is a man who stands by his word and by those who look to him for guidance and leadership. It is this kind of loyalty that makes him a man to be trusted. I know for a fact that he will stand by his commitment to Guyana just as firmly as he now stands by his commitment to any one of his children.

I look forward to future visits to Guyana and extend to you my warmest personal regards.

Sincerely,

MERVYN M. DYMALLY

MMD:yms

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